

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) A flexible thermoplastic polymeric film comprising:

a plurality of layers;

a first surface and a second surface of said flexible film comprising a coordinate system having a machine direction and a transverse direction perpendicular to said machine direction; and

a first plurality of laser-scored patterns in at least one layer of said plurality of layers of the flexible film in the first surface of said flexible film but not in the second surface of said flexible film wherein said first plurality of laser-scored patterns are is disposed in both the machine direction and the transverse direction of the surface of the flexible film wherein said first plurality of laser-scored patterns ~~forms~~ form a first line of weakness in said flexible film running continuously in the machine direction of the flexible film.

32. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:

a first layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinylidene chloride-coated polyethylene terephthalate, biaxially oriented nylon, polyvinylidene chloride-coated biaxially oriented nylon, oriented polypropylene and polyvinylidene chloride-coated oriented polypropylene, wherein said first layer has said first plurality of laser-scored patterns etched therein.

33. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 32 wherein said first layer forms an outer layer of said flexible film.

34. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 32 further comprising:

a second layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of adhesive and polyolefin.

35. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 34 wherein said second layer does not have the first plurality of laser scored patterns etched therein.

36. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:

a first layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinylidene chloride-methyl acrylate copolymer, nylon, metal foil, and metallized film.

37. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 36 wherein said first layer forms a barrier layer of said flexible film.

38. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 31 wherein said first plurality of laser scored patterns ~~comprises~~ comprise a first portion that is straight and parallel to an edge of said flexible film wherein said edge runs in the machine direction.

39. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 31 wherein said first plurality of laser scored patterns ~~comprises~~ comprise a first portion and a second portion, wherein said first portion is disposed from said second portion in the transverse direction of said surface of said flexible film ~~that is straight and parallel to an edge of said flexible film wherein said edge runs in the machine direction.~~

40. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 31 wherein said first plurality of laser scored patterns ~~comprises~~ comprise a recurring pattern in the machine direction of said surface of said flexible film.

41. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 39 wherein said first portion is a straight line disposed in the machine direction of said surface of said flexible film.

42. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 39 wherein said first portion and said second portion form the continuous score line.

43. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 39 wherein said second portion is disposed ~~displaced~~ toward a first edge of the flexible film relative to said first portion.

44. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:  
a recurring symbol on said surface of said flexible film for indicating where to dispose said first laser-scored pattern in said flexible film.

45. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:  
a second plurality of laser-scored patterns on said surface of said flexible film wherein said second plurality of laser-scored patterns is ~~are~~ disposed in said machine direction and said transverse direction of the flexible film and further wherein said second plurality of laser-scored patterns forms ~~form~~ a second continuous line of weakness in said flexible film.

46. (currently amended) The flexible film of claim 45 wherein said first plurality of laser-scored patterns is ~~are~~ disposed proximate a first edge of said flexible film and further wherein said second plurality of laser-scored patterns is ~~are~~ a mirror image of said first plurality of laser-scored patterns and further wherein said second plurality of laser-scored patterns is ~~are~~ disposed proximate a second edge of said flexible film.

47. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 31 wherein said first line of weakness in said flexible film has a tensile strength measured across said line of weakness of between about 3 lb/in. and about 10 lb/in.

48. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 47 wherein said first line of weakness in said flexible film has a tensile strength measured across said line of weakness of about 6.5 lb/in.

49. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:

an outer layer of said flexible film comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, biaxially oriented nylon, and oriented polypropylene; and

a barrier layer within said flexible film comprising a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinylidene chloride-methyl acrylate copolymer, nylon, metal foil and metallized film.

50. (previously presented) The flexible film of claim 31 further comprising:

a first film structure comprising an outer layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, biaxially oriented nylon and oriented polypropylene;

a second film structure comprising a barrier layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, nylon, polyvinylidene chloride-methyl acrylate copolymer, foil, and metallized film,

wherein said first film structure is laminated to said second film structure with a material selected from the group consisting of adhesive and polyolefin.

51.-69. (canceled)

70. (previously presented) The flexible polymeric film of claim 31 wherein said continuous line of weakness is disposed in the flexible film in both the machine and transverse directions of the flexible film by a laser beam without refocusing the laser beam.